

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video-image control apparatus having video-image input means, which transfers a video image, inputted in accordance with a request from a remote client, to the client, comprising:

generating means for generating an additional image based on pre-stored information corresponding to an object in the video image inputted by said video-image input means;

10 combining means for combining the additional image generated by said generating means, with the video image inputted by said video-image input means; and

transfer means for transferring an image obtained from combining by said combining means, to the client.

15

2. The video-image control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said video-image input means inputs the video image from a predetermined camera device.

20 3. The video-image control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said generating means has determination means for determining whether or not the video image inputted by said video-image input means includes the object, based on the pre-stored information,

25 and wherein if said determination means determines that the video image includes the object, said

generating means generates the additional image.

4. The video-image control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the object corresponding to the pre-
5 stored information is an information processing device or system which transfers status information upon issuance of status-information acquisition request via a predetermined communication means.

10 5. The video-image control apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said generating means has:

determination means for determining whether or not the video image inputted by said video-image input means includes the object; and

15 status-information reception means for issuing a status-information acquisition request to the object if said determination means determines that the video image includes the object, and receiving status information from the object,

20 and wherein said generating means generates the additional image based on the status information received by said status-information reception means.

6. A control method for a video-image control
25 apparatus having video-image input means, which transfers a video image, inputted in accordance with a

request from a remote client, to the client, comprising:

a generating step of generating an additional image based on pre-stored information corresponding to an object in the video image inputted by said video-

5 image input means;

a combining step of combining the additional image generated at said generating step, with the video image inputted by said video-image input means; and

a transfer step of transferring an image obtained
10 from combining at said combining step, to the client.

7. The control method according to claim 6, wherein said video-image input means inputs the video image from a predetermined camera device.

15

8. The control method according to claim 6, wherein said generating step has a determination step of determining whether or not the video image inputted by said video-image input means includes the object, based
20 on the pre-stored information,

and wherein if it is determined at said determination step that the video image includes the object, the additional image is generated at said generating step.

25

9. The control method according to claim 6, wherein

the object corresponding to the pre-stored information is an information processing device or system which transfers status information upon issuance of status-information acquisition request via a predetermined
5 communication means.

10. The control method according to claim 9, wherein said generating step has:

a determination step of determining whether or not
10 the video image inputted by said video-image input means includes the object; and

a status-information reception step of issuing a status-information acquisition request to the object if it is determined at said determination step that the
15 video image includes the object, and receiving status information from the object,

and wherein the additional image is generated at said generating step based on the status information received by said status-information reception means.

20

11. A storage medium containing a program which functions as a video-image control apparatus having video-image input means, which transfers a video image, inputted in accordance with a request from a remote
25 client, to the client, comprising:

generating means for generating an additional

image based on pre-stored information corresponding to an object in the video image inputted by said video-image input means;

combining means for combining the additional image
5 generated by said generating means, with the video image inputted by said video-image input means; and

transfer means for transferring an image obtained from combining by said combining means, to the client.

10 12. A video-image control apparatus having video-image input means, which transfers a video image, inputted in accordance with a request from a remote client, to the client, comprising:

memory means for storing information unique to an
15 object within a range inputtable by said video-image input means;

first transfer control means for, when the video image inputted by said video-image input means is transmitted to the client, if the video image includes
20 the object corresponding to the information stored in said memory means, combining a predetermined information with the video image such that requested information is outputted at an image position indicative of the object upon reception of a predetermined instruction from the
25 client, and transferring the video image; and

a second transfer control means for, upon

reception of the instruction from the client,
transferring the information stored in said memory means
to the client.

5 13. The video-image control apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein said video-image input means inputs
the video image from a predetermined camera device.

14. The video-image control apparatus according to
10 claim 12, further comprising:

detection means for, when the object is a device
connected on an network, if the object is within a view
range of said video-image input means, detecting status
information of the object; and

15 combining means for combining an image based on
the status information detected by said detection means
with the video image inputted by said video-image input
means,

wherein said first transfer control means
20 transfers an image obtained from combining by said
combining means.

15. The video-image control apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein said first transfer control means has:

25 determination means for determining whether or not
the video image to be transferred includes the object

corresponding to the information stored in said memory means; and

anchor generating means for generating anchor information to cause requested information assigned at a position around the object in the video image to be transferred, if said determination means determines that the video image includes the object,

wherein said first transfer control means transfers the image information with the anchor information.

16. A control method for a video-image control apparatus having video-image input means, which transfers a video image, inputted in accordance with a request from a remote client, to the client, comprising:

a first transfer control step of, when transferring the video image inputted by said video-image input means to the client, if the video image includes a pre-set object, combining a predetermined information with the video image such that requested information is outputted at an image position indicative of the object upon reception of a predetermined instruction from the client, and transferring the video image; and

a second transfer control step of, upon reception of the instruction from the client, reading information

unique to the object from a predetermined memory means,
and transferring the information to the client.

17. The control method according to claim 16, wherein
5 said video-image input means inputs the video image from
a predetermined camera device.

18. The control method according to claim 16, further
comprising:

10 a detection step of, when the object is a device
connected on an network, if the object is within a view
range of said video-image input means, detecting status
information of the object; and

a combining step of combining an image based on
15 the status information detected at said detection step
with the video image inputted by said video-image input
means,

wherein an image obtained from combining by said
combining means is transferred at said first transfer
20 control step.

19. The control method according to claim 16, wherein
said first transfer control step has:

a determination step of determining whether or not
25 the video image to be transferred includes the pre-set
object; and

an anchor generating step of generating anchor information to cause requested information assigned at a position around the object in the video image to be transferred, if it is determined at said determination
5 step that the video image includes the object,

wherein the image information is transferred with the anchor information at said first transfer control step.

10 20. A storage medium containing a program which is read and executed by a computer and which functions as a video-image control apparatus having video-image input means, which transfers a video image, inputted in accordance with a request from a remote client, to the
15 client, comprising:

first transfer-control process program codes of, when transferring the video image inputted by said video-image input means to the client, if the video image includes a pre-set object, combining a
20 predetermined information with the video image such that requested information is outputted at an image position indicative of the object, upon reception of a predetermined instruction from the client, and transferring the video image; and

25 second transfer-control process program codes of, upon reception of the instruction from the client,

reading information unique to the object from a predetermined memory means, and transferring the information to the client.

- 5 21. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 reception means for receiving a video image
 obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;
 generating means for generating an additional
 image relating to the video image received by said
10 reception means; and
 display control means for, if the video image
 received by said reception means has been obtained at a
 predetermined zoom ratio, combining the video image with
 the additional image and displaying an image resulted
15 from combining on a predetermined display means, while
 if the video image received by said reception means has
 not been obtained at the predetermined zoom ratio,
 displaying the video image on said predetermined display
 means without combining the video image with the
20 additional image.
22. The image processing apparatus according to claim
 21, wherein the additional image relating to the video
 image is an annotation on each object in the video image.
- 25 23. The image processing apparatus according to claim

22, wherein the annotation is information indicative of a position of each object.

24. The image processing apparatus according to claim
5 22, wherein the annotation is a message from a person concerned with each object.

25. The image processing apparatus according to claim
22, wherein the annotation is variable information
10 relating to each object.

26. The image processing apparatus according to claim
21, further comprising said display means.

15 27. The image processing apparatus according to claim
21, wherein the video image is a still image.

28. The image processing apparatus according to claim
21, wherein the video image is a moving image.

20

29. The image processing apparatus according to claim
21, wherein said display control means selects to
combine or not to combine the video image with the
additional image, based on whether or not the video
25 image received by said reception means has been obtained
at a predetermined image-sensing angle, as well as the

zoom ratio.

30. An image processing method comprising:

- a reception step of receiving a video image
- 5 obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;
- a generating step of generating an additional image relating to the video image received at said reception step; and
- a display control step of, if the video image
- 10 received at said reception step has been obtained at a predetermined zoom ratio, combining the video image with the additional image and displaying an image resulted from combining on a predetermined display means, while
- if the video image received at said reception step has
- 15 not been obtained at the predetermined zoom ratio, displaying the video image on said predetermined display means without combining the video image with the additional image.

20 31. A storage medium containing a computer-readable control program, said program comprising:

- reception process program codes of receiving a video image obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;
- 25 generating process program codes of generating an additional image relating to the video image received at

said reception process; and

display control process program codes of, if the video image received at said reception process has been obtained at a predetermined zoom ratio, combining the
5 video image with the additional image and displaying an image resulted from combining on a predetermined display means, while if the video image received at said reception process has not been obtained at the predetermined zoom ratio, displaying the video image on
10 said predetermined display means without combining the video image with the additional image.

32. An image processing apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a video image
15 obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;
generating means for generating an additional image to be combined and displayed with the video image received by said reception means; and

control means for controlling generation of the
20 additional image by said generating means, in accordance with a size of a predetermined object in the video image received by said reception means.

33. An image processing method comprising:

25 a reception step of receiving a video image obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;

a generating step of generating an additional image to be combined and displayed with the video image received at said reception step; and

5 a control step of controlling generation of the additional image at said generating step, in accordance with a size of a predetermined object in the video image received at said reception step.

34. A storage medium containing a computer-readable
10 control program comprising:

reception process program codes of receiving a video image obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;

generating process program codes of generating an
15 additional image to be combined and displayed with the video image received at said reception process; and

control process program codes of controlling generation of the additional image at said generating process, in accordance with a size of a predetermined
20 object in the video image received at said reception process.

35. An image processing apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a video image
25 obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;

generating means for generating an additional

image to be combined and displayed with the video image received by said reception means; and

control means for controlling generation of the additional image by said generating means, in accordance
5 with image sensing condition of the video image received by said reception means,

wherein the additional image is a link image for starting reception of an image from another network terminal.

10

36. The image processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the image sensing condition includes an image sensing angle.

15 37. The image processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the image sensing condition includes a zoom ratio.

38. The image processing apparatus according to claim
20 35, wherein the additional image is an annotation on each object in the video image.

39. An image processing method comprising:
a reception step of receiving a video image
25 obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;
a generating step of generating an additional

image to be combined and displayed with the video image received at said reception step; and

a control step of controlling generation of the additional image at said generating step, in accordance
5 with image sensing condition of the video image received at said reception step,

wherein the additional image is a link image for starting reception of an image from another network terminal.

10

40. A storage medium containing a computer-readable control program comprising:

reception process program codes of receiving a video image obtained by a predetermined image sensing
15 means;

generating process program codes of generating an additional image to be combined and displayed with the video image received at said reception process; and

control process program codes of controlling
20 generation of the additional image at said generating process, in accordance with image sensing condition of the video image received at said reception process,

wherein the additional image is a link image for starting reception of an image from another network
25 terminal.

41. An image processing apparatus comprising:
reception means for receiving a video image
obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;
generating means for generating plural different
5 formats of additional images to be combined and
displayed with the video image received by said
reception means; and
control means for generating an additional image
corresponding to one of the plural formats, by said
10 generating means, based on image sensing condition of
the video image received by said reception means.
42. The image processing apparatus according to claim
41, wherein the image sensing condition includes an
15 image sensing angle.
43. The image processing apparatus according to claim
41, wherein the image sensing condition includes a zoom
ratio.
- 20 44. The image processing apparatus according to claim
41, wherein the additional image is an annotation on
each object in the video image.
- 25 45. An image processing method comprising:
a reception step of receiving a video image

obtained by a predetermined image sensing means;

a generating step of generating plural different formats of additional images to be combined and displayed with the video image received at said

5 reception step; and

a control step of generating an additional image corresponding to one of the plural formats, at said generating step, based on image sensing condition of the video image received at said reception step.

10

46. A storage medium containing a computer-readable control program comprising:

reception process program codes of receiving a video image obtained by a predetermined image sensing

15 means;

generating process program codes of generating plural different formats of additional images to be combined and displayed with the video image received at said reception process; and

20

control process program codes of generating an additional image corresponding to one of the plural formats, at said generating process, based on image sensing condition of the video image received at said reception process.